Mike and Melissa Episode 27: Mike and Melissa Figure Future Stuff Out... I Guess

By

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SCENE 1- INT. MIKE’S LIVING ROOM, 1/04/2012, 9PM

I’m hanging out trying to write an episode (keyword: trying). MELISSA comes in and smooches me on the cheek.

MELISSA
Workin’ on a new episode?

MIKE
Tryin’ to... I dunno I’m kinda having a little trouble focusing.

MELISSA
Why so, babyface?

MIKE
Well it might have somethin’ to do with the fact that I’m STRESSIN’ OUT OVER HERE!!!

MELISSA
(sigh)
Again? Come on, Mike, you’re stressed out about something like every other day. Can’t we just... like, enjoy ourselves this time around?

MIKE
No such luck.

MELISSA
Well... rats.

The rats in the back start fussin’ at each other.

MIKE
CUT THAT SHIT OUT, RATS!

MELISSA
Heh, whadya think the odds are that they’d have had the same reaction if I had said something like "shucks" or "poop" instead?

They fuss again.

MELISSA
Apparently they’re about the same. Anyways... what’s the problem?

(CONTINUED)

MIKE
I mean, shoot... this might be the only night this semester that I'll be able to work on series stuff. I've signed up for 18 credit hours, including my independent project where I'm gonna make a 22-minute animation BY MYSELF... so really I probably shouldn't even be doing series stuff at all.

I pull out a textbook and start studyin'

MELISSA
Well that's pooptastic. Pooptastic I proclaim!

MIKE
...Well that's a word for it.

MELISSA
And what a word it is! Anyways, have you considered maybe oh I dunno NOT overloading this semester?

MIKE
NO!!! I have to overload! If I don't, then I'll have to wait another semester to graduate and I wanna be done with fuckin' college already!

MELISSA
Understandable... but don't you only need 15 hours to graduate?

MIKE
Yeah, but I wanna do the independent project too.

MELISSA
Alright... so you're gonna burn yourself out and make yourself miserable for the sole reason of finishing school in the practically unrealistic but socially expected 4 year standard instead of putting the proper amount of time and dedication to the actual reason you should even taking the classes in the first place?

MIKE
Yes.

MELISSA
Hmm... well, whadya think of that, Butler and Peabody?

BUTLER and PEABODY start fussing again. Pretty soon IEO is squeaking up a storm. And just for good measure VERA pops in and starts meowing for food!

MIKE
ALL ANIMALS NEED TO SHUT UP!!!

They stop.

MELISSA
Even me?

MIKE
...No, not you. I actually like it when you make mouth noises.

MELISSA
Do you now? Well, how about you come here and see what kind of mouth noises you can get me to make?

Enticed by her allusion to sex, I get up and move in to kiss her. Just to be a pain, she blasts a loud feedback-y screech, and all the animals start freaking out again.

MIKE
WHY, MEL??? WHAT POINT ARE YOU TRYING TO PROVE EVEN???

INTRO SEQUENCE!!!

SCENE 2- INT. MLB AUDITORIUM 2, 1/18/2012, 7PM

I’m there watchin’ one of Eisenstein’s later films... you know, one of those that make you want to kill yourself. *Ten Days in October* maybe? Sure whatever. People are walking out one by one as the movie rolls, "revolutionary" cut by "revolutionary" cut. MEL poofs in.

MELISSA
Whacha watchin’ tonight?

MIKE
Some Eisenstein film... "Soviet Time in Russia Boo Capitalism Go Fuck Yourself" or some bullshit like that.

MELISSA
Well. It’s better than watching Shallow Hal right? WE GET IT. SHE’S FAT.

MIKE
...Random much?

MELISSA
Very much! I can be random when I feel like it. And I do! Christmas Cat Call Portal 2!!!

She opens a portal on the ceiling and a companion cube falls out. The heart’s got an exclamation mark in the middle, of course ;). There’s also random Christmas greetings and cat calls written all over it.

MIKE
Cheeze wiz banana rocketship?

MELISSA
Now you’re speaking my language.

A cheeze wiz banana rocketship flies by.

MIKE
Why don’t we make a movie?

MELISSA
We could! YOU could anyways.

MIKE
That’s the idea. It’d be better than this bunch of dicks, I’m sure.

MELISSA
Well, it may not cater to your tastes, but is it really fair to compare this movie to a bunch of dicks?

MIKE
You’re right. It’s more like several bunches chopped up in "violent" and "revoultionary" ways. I wouldn’t mind so much if I hadn’t
(MORE)

MIKE (cont'd)
already studied early Soviet cinema IN ALL MY OTHER FUCKIN' CLASSES!!!

MELISSA
Yeah, well, don't focus on that so much. Just... look at the rectangle-

MIKE
DON'T. EVEN.

MELISSA
Just teasin'. Anyways, just remember why you're taking this class.

MIKE
Because I need it to graduate?

MELISSA
WRONG! You're taking it to learn about the history of your chosen craft and to find new possible influences. And hey, some of what you see isn't gonna be to your liking...

Another couple students bail out.

MELISSA
...Or most of your peers', for that matter... but y'know what? It's all part of the learning process. You can learn from movies you don't like just as much as from movies you do, if not moreso. And that's what it's all about.

MIKE
Not for me. I just wanna graduate.

MELISSA
Well... there's that too I suppose.

The last student bails.

MIKE
Guess we're the only ones who made it through.

MELISSA
I beg to differ!

She opens a bunch of portals on the ceiling and a bunch of companion cubes fall into the seats below.

MELISSA
AM I RANDOM OR WHAT???

MIKE
...TURNIPS?!?

MELISSA
YES!!!

We start making out right there in the theater as turnips fall from the ceiling. Now THAT'S random!!!

SCENE 3- EXT. E JEFFERSON ST, 1/19/2012, 2PM

I'm out and about walkin' with my backpack. MEL draped on my back, passing out.

MELISSA
So... out of class for the day. Wanna go home and snuggle? I'm down for a nap until like... March.

MIKE
Still in hibernation mode, eh?

MELISSA
Is it still winter?

MIKE
Yeah...

MELISSA
Then yes.

MIKE
Lucky. I'd love to take you up on that, but I'm only stopping in to grab some stuff before hittin' up the library.

MELISSA
Aw, Mike, c'mon. It's too early in the semester to be worrying about that too much.

MIKE
Is it though??? I have several hundred pages to read, a bunch of assignments I need to get started on, and if my supervisor for the independent project ever answers my fuckin’ emails I should really get crackin’ on that too! So... that’s what I’ve got going on today.

MELISSA
Sounds like a bogus day.

MIKE
You’re telling me. Anyways, if you just wanna go home and sleep all day, that’s fine. You can come with me if you want but I’ll probably just bore you to pieces.

MEL hops down.

MELISSA
Yeah, probably... though I do have ways of keeping myself (and you) entertained.

MIKE
Yeah? And what’s that?

MELISSA
THIS!!!

She moves to hop into my brain, but passes out mid-process and just sort of runs into my head. She falls down onto the ground.

MIKE
Well, that was kinda entertaining... were you gonna do that the whole time I was at the library though?

MELISSA
Mmph... take me home and I’ll show you what I really mean.

I pick her up and carry her home.

SCENE 4- INT. MIKE’S BEDROOM, 1/19/2012, 2:30PM

I throw MEL on my bed and start gathering up books.

MIKE
Sweet dreams, my love.

I kiss her and turn to go. She comes to.

MELISSA
Not so fast.

MIKE
Okay, are you hibernatory or just randomly narcoleptic?

MELISSA
Shit, both probably. Anyways, as I was saying earlier...

She jumps into my brain and pulls me in after!

SCENE 5- INT. MIKE’S IMAGINATION LOBBY, ???

I (in my skunk form) and MEL land in my imaginationland.

MIKE
Yep, this is very entertaining. I’m always game for any excuse to transform into my skunk form.

MELISSA
Can’t say I blame ya. As usual though, I didn’t just bring you in here so you could hang out in your skunk form.

MIKE
Man, there’s always gotta be a reason for everything... can’t we ever just go here to hang out?

MELISSA
...Y’know what? Sure. Let’s have a blast!

SCENE 6- INT. MIKE’S HAPPY PLACE, ???, EARLY AFTERNOON

We’re at the waterfall! MEL is hangin’ out at the bottom while I prepare to do a superdive.

MIKE
Alrighty, Melissa, be sure to watch this one. This is what I call my superdive.

MELISSA
I’m watching!

I pull off a dive with like a bunch of front flips! I screw up at the end though and wind up belly floppin’ something fierce. I emerge from the water, with pretty much my entire frontside pulsating and red.

MIKE
Yep... that was a superdive.

MELISSA
Well it certainly was a sight to see. You really stuck the ending there, didn’t you?

MIKE
Yep. That’s exactly the way I planned to do it.

MELISSA
Right, I’m sure. Speaking of planning to do stuff, let’s talk about planning to do stuff.

MIKE
You mean like another superdive?

MELISSA
Not exactly. More like super... school.

MIKE
Aw, poop on that. Let’s just hang out here-

MELISSA
Nope, fun time’s over. You’re not gettin’ out of this that easy.

MIKE
What the hell, Melissa? I was gonna go to the library and study before
(MORE)

MIKE (cont'd)
you brought me in here, now all you want to talk about is school? What do you want from me???

MELISSA
Alright, fair point. So you know what? Forget I even brought up school for a sec and let me ask you a question of a different color... what do YOU want from you?

MIKE
...Whadya mean?

MELISSA
What do you want out of this life?

MIKE
I've known what I wanted to do more or less my whole life.

MELISSA
Yeah? And what's that?

MIKE
I want to be a writer/animator/showrunner for my own animated series.

MELISSA
And that's awesome!

MIKE
Darn straight!

MELISSA
So how're you gonna get to that point?

MIKE
First off I gotta finish up school and get my degree. Then I'm gonna move out to somewhere with a strong animation history, somewhere like Atlanta, Vancouver, or LA (but only if I really have to)-

MELISSA
Then what?

MIKE
...Get a job, of course.

MELISSA
Sure. How though?

MIKE
...Go in and apply places?

MELISSA
What places? And where? What happens if you move out and you can’t find a job anywhere? Do you think your resume is good enough right now, even with your pending BA?

MIKE
...MAN, why you gotta grill me like that??? That’s all stuff I can figure out once I get my degree and move on. For now, I should be focusing on just getting this crap done so I can graduate, THEN I can worry about all that gobbledygook.

MELISSA
So you think getting your degree is gonna be the fix-all to your career ambitions?

MIKE
Yes. A degree from U of M speaks volumes.

MELISSA
That may be so. But is that all you’re getting out of your education experience?

MIKE
What else is there to get?

MELISSA
Oh dear... I really didn’t want to hear you say that. But if you really think that’s all your education is good for, then... well...

MEL snaps her fingers, and we transport to...

SCENE 7- INT. MICHIGAN STADIUM, LATE APRIL, NOONISH

We transport to a big phony graduation ceremony! I’m there with a bunch of other various fantasy characters who are also graduated. I’m seated in my cap and gown, right up in the front row.

MIKE
What’s all this then?

MELISSA
Well, since your degree is all you seem to care about, I figured why don’t we just go ahead and give it to you already?

MIKE
So... I’ve graduated? Just like that?

MELISSA
Yep.

MIKE
Wow... I wish real universities worked like this!

MELISSA
Yeah? Well I’M GLAD THEY DON’T!!!

COMMERCIAL BREAK!!!

SNEEP CAT steps up to the podium to deliver his speech.

MIKE
Seriously??? Sneep Cat is the guest speaker at my graduation ceremony??? Why’s this guy keep showing up in my imaginary stuff???

MELISSA
Good question.

She eyes me, and I’m forced to ponder...

SNEEP CAT
Alright, so... congrats guys. You trudged through the classes and you put in the busy work to gain what you really wanted all along: a piece of paper saying you did something. Are you proud of yourselves?... Well, here you go.

SNEEP CAT grabs a bunch of papers and chucks them at the crowd of graduates, who all go berserk trying to grab at them. I finally manage to get my hands on one. I unravel it to find a lousy piece of paper that looks like a child drew all over it.

MIKE
...Melissa I don’t get it. This is just a piece of paper.

MELISSA
Isn’t that what a degree is?

MIKE
...Touche, I guess... still, at least it’s supposed to be a fancy piece of paper. This just looks like some child scribbled all over it and wrote "degree" in the middle.

MELISSA
Hey, my handwriting’s not THAT bad.

I just kinda look at her.

MELISSA
Fine...

She zaps it and it transforms into a "fancy" piece of paper... still with "degree" written in the middle.

MELISSA
There, now you have a fancy piece of paper. So what’re you gonna do next?

MIKE
Get a job, of course.

MELISSA
Cool. Where? Doing what?

MIKE
...Uh...

MELISSA
Know what? Don’t even worry about it. I set up an interview for ya.

She snaps her fingers and all the sudden we’re at...

SCENE 8- INT. EXECUTIVE OFFICE, ??? 10AMISH

MELISSA and I are seated in a snazzy office, dressed for corporate success!

MIKE
Wow, impressive. How’d you manage this?

MELISSA
I pulled some strings, called in a few favors... you know how it goes.

MIKE
I don’t actually... I didn’t even know you had corporate connections.

MELISSA
Well technically you do to...

SNEEP CAT walks in, throws a folder on his desk, and takes his seat.

MIKE
AGAIN??? Why do you keep showing up in EVERYTHING??? You were just at my graduation!!!

SNEEP CAT
Yeah, why do you think they asked me to be the guest speaker? I’m a success, stupid! Do the words CEO mean anything to you?

MIKE
First off, those are letters, not words, stupid.

SNEEP CAT
You’re stupid.

MIKE
YOU’RE STUPID!!! Second, if you’re a CEO, why do you keep taking crap jobs on the side?

SNEEP CAT
Because I’m bored. I only come in the office like twice a week-

MIKE
And how come you’re always making a fuss about money?

SNEEP CAT
Because I like money. Duh. Speaking of, says here on your resume that you still owe me some money. That’s gonna be a bit of a problem-

MIKE
I knew you’d bring that up!

SNEEP CAT
BECAUSE I WANT MY MONEY, ASS HAT!

MIKE
MY HAT IS NOT AN ASS!!! No. Melissa, I’m not doin’ this with this guy. He’s got it out for me!

SNEEP CAT
Just give me my money, you cheapskate!

MIKE
SUCK MY DING DONG!!!

SNEEP CAT
Grr... you know what? Fine. I’ll have my assistant come in and finish the interview. I’ve got enough to do today without wasting my time with this shit.

He reaches under his desk and pulls out a hairnet and an apron, then heads to the door.

SNEEP CAT
And in case you were wondering... you’re not off to a good start.

I give him the finger as he’s leaving.

MELISSA
Please, Mike... can you try to act a little bit professional for just a few minutes?

MIKE
Sure, just so long as his assistant isn’t another total jerkoff with a bone to pick with me-

NICOLE comes in and slams a file full of paperwork on the desk in front of us.

NICOLE
I’m sorry, am I interrupting?

MIKE
No, not at all... nice to see you again Nicole. I didn’t know you worked here. I guess everyone works here, huh-

NICOLE
Is that supposed to be a joke? Of course I work here. Why is that such a shock? Where’d you think I worked, at a gas station?

MIKE
...I had no idea, honestly-

NICOLE
Well I can already tell where this interview’s going. Let’s make this easier on both of us and get to brass tacks already, alright? I looked over your resume and it’s GARBAGE. Frankly I don’t see anything on here that says you’d be an asset to our company.

MIKE
How am I supposed to know what to put on my resume? I don’t even know what you guys do!

NICOLE
Didn’t do your research, I see. Tsk, tsk... not like it matters really, a resume like this wouldn’t impress any respectable employer.

MIKE
...But I got a BA from U of M!

NICOLE
Am I supposed to be impressed? A Bachelor’s degree is our minimum requirement. We have people coming in here from all over the world, and most of them have better degrees from better schools than you. Besides, it’s just a piece of paper. What we’re looking for is someone who’s differentiated themselves from the rest of the

(MORE)

NICOLE (cont'd)
pack; someone with a multitude of talents, experiences, and references that we can put to use. Your resume has none of that. Who are your references? What jobs or internships have you worked? I mean... shit, what is your life even?

MIKE
Hey my life was all about getting my degree so I could get a job!

NICOLE
Is that what it was all about? Maybe your education would have been put to better use if you had, say, LEARNED something.

MIKE
I learned stuff. I had a good GPA...

NICOLE smiles a bitchy smile.

NICOLE
Well, unless you have any questions for me, I think we're done here.

I raise as if to say something, but back down.

NICOLE
I didn't think so. I trust you know the way out?

MIKE
Uh... no, actually...

MELISSA
It's okay, I'll lead him out.

SCENE 9- INT. OFFICE HALLWAY, ???, 11AMISH

MEL leads me to an elevator and presses the down button. The doors open, and SHIRT-A-TOA and a group of other imaginaries file out. MEL and I inch around them as they exit.

SHIRT-A-TOA
I mean it though! I think that Hawaiian-shirt Fridays would be a really big hit around the office.

SOME ARMADILLO
Yeah... why don’t you go ahead and throw that one in the suggestion box?

SHIRT-A-TOA
I’ve been putting it in there for weeks! They must not have checked it for a while.

SOME ARMADILLO
Yeah I’m sure that’s it.

The elevator doors close.

SCENE 10- INT. ELEVATOR, ??? 11AMISH

MELISSA
So how do you feel?

MIKE
Terrible... I feel like I’ve wasted my whole life and I’ve been doing everything for the wrong reason.

MELISSA
Well, I mean, you got your degree at least, right?

MIKE
Yeah, and look how much that’s helped me. Man... I feel stupid.

MELISSA
Hey, don’t get so down on yourself. It’ll come in handy some day, it’s all about finding the right opportunity.

MIKE
You think so?

MELISSA
Sure! Check this out.

The elevator doors open to reveal...

SCENE 11- EXT. SLEAZY BACKALLEY, ???, EVENING

We exit into a rainy, graffiti covered alley. MELISSA leads me to a future version of myself, who happens to be homeless and ragged. I'm using my hat as a change collector and my degree as a blanket.

MELISSA
...Nope, never mind. The thing's not even big enough to cover you as a blanky-

MIKE
Alright! I get the point already. I've ruined my life and my degree is gonna be useless and I won't be able to succeed in the professional world and I'm gonna be homeless after I graduate. Now, unless I've left something out-

I stop when I notice SNEEP CAT strolling by, still with his hairnet and apron on. He sees my homeless self and takes my hat full of change.

SNEEP CAT
Now we're even.

He runs off.

MIKE
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!? What an asshole!!!

I start to run after him, but MEL stops me.

MELISSA
Let him go. He's in for a treat once he finds out it's all imaginary money. Besides, I've taken this scenario a little too far into hyperbole-land, so allow me to bring us back to real... land.

She snaps her fingers and we're back to...

SCENE 12- INT. MIKE’S BEDROOM, 1/19/2012, 3PM

We’re in our normal forms on the bed.

MELISSA
So here’s the deal. Degrees aren’t useless, you’re very capable of succeeding in the professional world, and barring some catastrophe you’re not gonna be homeless. Most important, your life is very far from ruined. Whether you decide to graduate now or at the end of the year, you’re probably in pretty damn good shape. But do you understand why I think it would be a better idea for you to go back for another semester instead of overloading just for the sake of finishing "on time"?

MIKE
I do... I think somewhere along the lines I’ve forgotten that school was supposed to be about learning new things and gaining experiences that would benefit me professionally, not just busy work to get done.

MELISSA
Close, but let’s take a step back from that even. Yes, it’s true school is good for all that professional poopie-doopie, but just as important (moreso, if you ask me), it’s about learning about yourself and what you want out of this life. So in light of everything you just went through, lemme ask you again... is cramming in 18 credit hours just to get your degree really what you wanna do?

MIKE
No. Not at all.

MELISSA
So what DO you wanna do?

MIKE
I want to improve my craft as a filmmaker/writer/editor/animator/whatever.
(MORE)

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MIKE (cont’d)
I wanna get more experience and training in and out of the classroom and put myself out there working on new projects, meeting new people, etc etc. Maybe even throw in an internship or something.

MELISSA
That plan is the bomb, Mike! THE bomb! If I touched that plan I’d blow up the whole dang town! That said, do you think you can get that done over one semester?

MIKE
Hell no.

MELISSA
Hell yes to your hell no! So whadya gonna do?

MIKE
...Well... it might be a good idea to move my big independent project to fall semester so I’d have more time to focus on just that.

MELISSA
Might be? That’s the best of ideas!

MIKE
And since I’m doing that, I can move my astronomy class to then so I can spend this semester focusing on my other classes and keep myself open to upcoming projects.

MELISSA
And that’s the best of the best! How about the summer in between semesters?

MIKE
Look for internships, projects, jobs... anything that comes up.

MELISSA
That is the best of the best of the BEST!!!

MIKE
Yeah, it ain’t bad. Anyways, I still do have to get down to the library, I’ve got... huh. You know, if I’m gonna drop two of my classes that’s gonna save me a lot of work for tonight. So I probably won’t have to go ’til later, if at all.

MELISSA
Hey look at that, your plan’s working out already!

MIKE
Yeah! Maybe I should move some of my other classes while I’m at it, and graduate when I’m 27-

MELISSA
Alright, buster, let’s not move the finish line back like 5 miles. Just a few feet will do.

MIKE
Ah... fine.

MELISSA
Anyways... now that your schedule’s freed up... ya think you could pencil me in for some lovin’ time?

MIKE
Baby, my schedule’s always open for your lovin’ time.

I move in to smooch her, but she passes out on the bed. I give that "Oh, Melissa" sigh.

MELISSA
GOTCHA!!!

She grabs me and pulls me down, and just like that we’re goin’ at it.

SCENE 13- INT. NORTH QUAD OFFICES, 1/20/2012, 1PM

I walk out of an office towards the exit. MEL poofs in.

MELISSA
Get everything squared away?

MIKE
Yep. Just have to re-apply for graduation in the fall semester and that’ll be that-

PROF KLIGERMAN walks by.

PROF KLIGERMAN
Hey Mike, how’re ya doin’?

MIKE
Oh, just moved my schedule around a bit. Looks like I’ll be sticking around for another semester, but I think that’ll be good in the long run.

PROF KLIGERMAN
Well if you’re still looking for credits I’ll be teaching a studies class about the history of animation that you might be interested in...

MIKE
Are you serious??? I mean, I’ll have my requirements for the major fulfilled actually, but I’d take that class anyways!

PROF KLIGERMAN
Excellent. Well I look forward to seeing you next semester then!

We continue our respective treks.

MELISSA
Well how do you like that?

As I walk up to the elevators, I see one of my classmates. EMILY to be exact.

EMILY
Hey, what’s up?

MIKE
Hey, just gettin’ some class stuff sorted out.

EMILY
Cool. Oh hey, I know you’re busy with your 18 credit hours and your independent project, but-

MIKE
I actually fixed that. I'll be doing my project in the fall.

EMILY
Oh, that's good. I was actually gonna ask if you wanted to help out on an animated project that I was doing.

MIKE
For real? Heck yes I would!

EMILY
Awesome! We're having a production meeting up here at 8 on Wednesday.

MIKE
Choice. I'll see you there!

I get in the elevator and start heading down.

MELISSA
How do you like THAT?!? It's almost as if everything has been contrived to make it seem like your decision was more immediately beneficial than it actually was.

We look at each other.

MELISSA
Or maybe life's just random like that sometimes.

A portal opens in the door and another cube falls through.

MIKE
Really, what's with the cubes?

MELISSA
Hey, at least it's not a...

A turret falls through the same portal and start's FREAKIN' OUT!!! AND SO DO WE!!!

TURRET
AAAAAAHHHHHHHH!!!!!!!

MIKE AND MELISSA
AAAAAAAHHHHHHHH!!!!!!

SCENE 14- EXT. ALLEYWAY, ??? EVENING

A drenched SNEEP CAT stops running and hides in a doorway. He peers around, then investigates that hat he stole from me earlier for $. He pulls out some bills... and discovers they’re fakes! He freaks out.

SNEEP CAT
DAMN YOU MIKE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

OUTRO SEQUENCE!!!

It’s a marathon, not a sprint. But who’s racing anyways???